

CITY OF FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from the Chief

It is an honor to present the Falls Church Police Department's Annual Report for 2012. The year 2012 was highlighted with extraordinary police services provided by the men and women of the Falls Church Police Department. Much of the year the Department was under the command of Colonel Harry W. Reitze, who retired November 11, 2012 after 38 years of honorable and dedicated service. The Police Department and the City will always be grateful for his legacy of leadership and service as he was an exceptional public servant.

The year 2012 poised extraordinary challenges in the field of law enforcement incidents; the Police Department together with various City Departments continue to ensure a strong commitment to the priority of public safety service in the City. Much of the success we have enjoyed this past year can be attributed to the ongoing partnership with the Arlington Commonwealth Attorney's Office under the direction of Ms. Theo Stamos and her team of Commonwealth Attorneys. Also we proudly recognize Loudoun County Commonwealth Attorney James Plowman and his Deputy Assistant Commonwealth Nicole Wittmann and Assistant Commonwealth Alex Amato for their tireless and dedicated service in special prosecutions for the City of Falls Church.

In 2012, the challenges poised by weather related emergencies in June's Derecho Storm and October's Hurricane Sandy affected the entire region. An action plan lead by the Emergency Manager and the City Leadership Team was put into action which ensured safety and service to the community through each incident. There was no loss of life and minimal to no injuries suffered in these events mainly because of the Officers and City workers on the front line. Also, what was realized in these incidents is the preparation work by all City Departments in the spirit of Emergency Management that was invaluable, life saving and what makes the Little City ever resilient.

Throughout the year 2012, we have many success stories that can be attributed to the officers and administrative staff of the Police Department, yet we know that the true success is in the team of partners we work with daily. We are fortunate to have a generous compliment of Sheriff Deputies in Falls Church lead by Sheriff Steve Bittle and a number of Falls Church Volunteer Firefighters lead by Chief Paul Schomburg. Additionally we are fortunate to work daily with our mutual aid partners and neighboring jurisdictions throughout the region to include: Fairfax County Police, Arlington County Police and Fire and the City of Alexandria Police. We enjoy and support a regional approach to public safety and proudly participate in the continued efforts of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Taskforce.

Each and every officer, the Fire Marshal, the Crossing Guards, the Animal Control Officer, the Parking Enforcement Officer, the Communications Dispatchers and Administrative staff are firmly committed to the safety and concerns of all citizens and visitors to Falls Church. We are committed in concert with the Superintendent of Falls Church City Schools to maintain safe and healthy school campuses for all that work, visit and learn.

Most importantly we are also very grateful for the brave citizens who report crime and take pride in the safety and quality of life in the City of Falls Church; particularly our City's children who have in this past year demonstrated tremendous strength and support of our efforts.

We are proud to serve the City.

Mary Gavin

Mission Statement

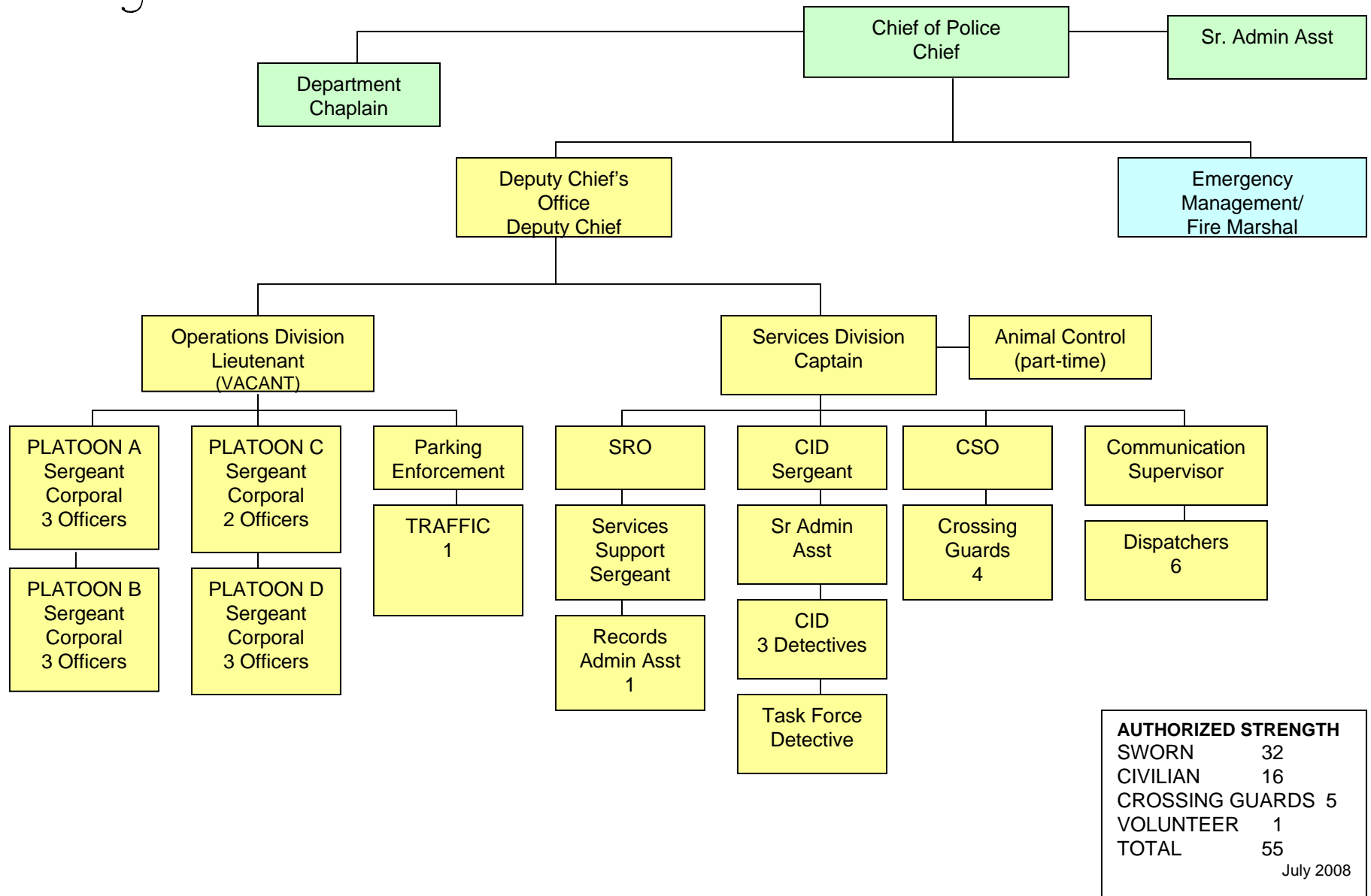
The officers and staff of the Falls Church Police Department are committed to providing a safe environment for all citizens to work and live in by protecting life, property, and preserving peace within the community. The Falls Church Police Department has the responsibility to maintain public safety and order through the enforcement of criminal laws and traffic regulations; development and deployment of effective crime prevention education programs that include children, residents and business owners, proper research and analysis of the service area; and coordination of interagency communications with other organizations in the criminal justice system.

Core values

Commitment
Communication
Teamwork

Innovation
Learning
Empowerment

Organization Chart



Statistics

| | 2012 | 2011 | Difference |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| Part I Offenses - Total Number | 278 | 283 | (1.7%) |
| Part II Offenses - Total Number | 1,988 | 2,192 | (9.3%) |
| Arrests - Total Traffic | 4,636 | 7,045 | (34.2%) |
| - Total Criminal | 1,210 | 1,497 | (19.2%) |
| - Total Adult | 1,180 | 1,425 | (17.2%) |
| - Total Juvenile | 30 | 72 | (58.3%) |
| - Felony | 68 | 62 | 9.7% |
| - Misdemeanor | 1,142 | 1,435 | (20.5%) |
| DWI - Total Number | 116 | 125 | (7.2%) |
| Accidents (reportable) Total | 181 | 198 | (8.6%) |
| - Persons Injured | 51 | 32 | 59.4% |
| Calls for Service - Complaints | 2,266 | 2,476 | (8.5%) |
| - Runs | 24,161 | 25,007 | (3.4%) |
| - Total | 26,427 | 27,483 | (3.8%) |
| Parking Tickets - Total | 1,073 | 660 | 62.6% |

Office of the Chief



The primary function of the staff in Office of the Chief is to oversee the entire Department by ensuring officers are actively engaged in the community as well as providing a high level of quality service to its citizens. This office is comprised of the Chief of Police and a Senior Administrative Assistant.

The Chief of Police provides direction in all matters within the Department and coordinates with other City Departments and local law enforcement agencies. The Sr. Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing lead administrative support to include managing the office work flow, the preparation of the Department budget, Department payroll, screen visitors and a host of other duties.

Operations División

The Operations Patrol División is the most visible of the Department's División, as it is responsible for responding to calls for service in the City 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents and perform traffic enforcement duties. Of the 21 officers in the Operations División, one Officer has been assigned to the Traffic unit and one civilian employee is assigned to the Parking Enforcement Officer position. The purpose of the Traffic unit is to dedicate directed patrols for traffic related issues, which is one of the most frequent complaints and concerns in the City. The second most frequent complaint and/or concern in the City is parking related issues. The Parking Enforcement Officer investigates and enforces the City ordinances regarding parking regulations and this year the PEO has proactively sought changes in the ordinance and policies to resolve some of the problematic areas in the residential and commercial areas. The Parking Enforcement Officer position is currently a part time employee but his impact in change and proactive enforcement and problem solving has been essential to the community.

Together, with all División of the Police Department and all Departments within the City government, the Operations División works collaboratively in responding to reported crime and quality of life issues that affects the City and its citizenry. The Operations División fulfills this public safety responsibility by embracing the principles of the government service defined in the City's vision to maintain a safe and vibrant community.

Operations División

In 2012, Recruit Officers Joe Karlinsey, Dmitri Issaev and Laina Vittone were hired. These three recruit officers attended the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Academy and graduated by fulfilling all the necessary requirements set forth by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). All three recruit officers were assigned to the Operations Field Training Program where they are required to complete a 14-week program under the tutelage of certified Field Training Officers. Officers Karlinsey and Issaev completed their training phase in April 2012, while Officer Vittone completed her training phase in November 2012. All three officers have been assigned to permanent shifts and are making great contributions to the City's workforce in forwarding our mission.

Results and Activities

In calendar year 2012, the Operations División responded to over 24,000 calls for service that did not require a written report and 2300 complaints that did require a written report. The patrol and traffic efforts of the División produced 4700 tickets for traffic violations, made 1200 arrests, responded to and investigated 181 traffic accidents, 661 alarms and issued 1073 tickets for parking violations. In addition, the División provided security, public assistance and crowd control during the Fall Festival and (4) citizen/community sponsored events to include: First Watch Night, The Falls Church Education Foundation 5K Run, The Friends of the WOGD Trail 5K Run, and The Senior All-Nighter Party for the George Mason High School graduating class of 2012.



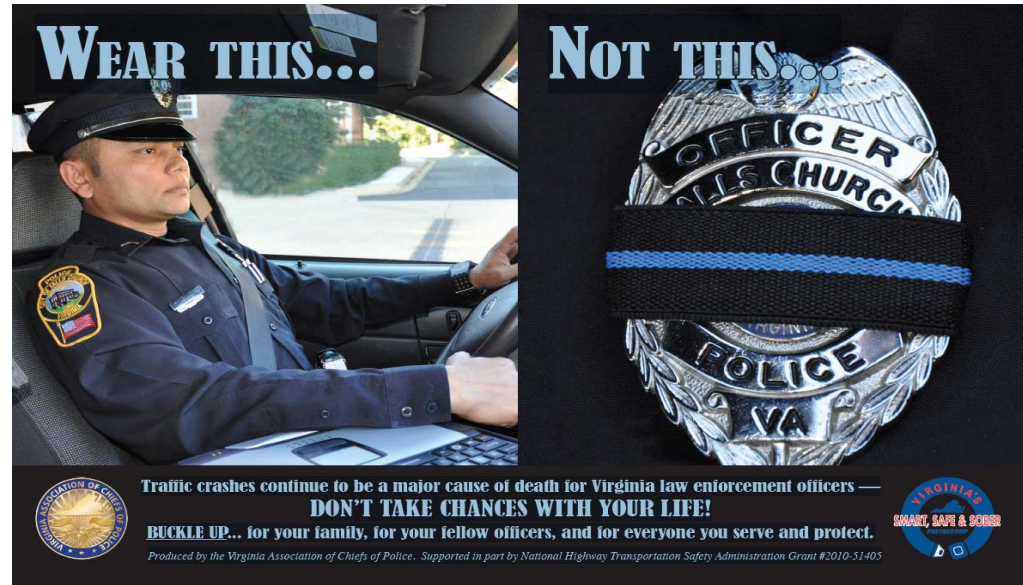
Ret. Chief Reitze, Ofc. Karlinsey, Ofc. Issaev, City Manager Shields



City Manager Shields, Ofc. Vittone, Ret. Chief Reitze

Regional Traffic Campaigns

The Operations Division participates in five regional traffic campaigns directed at reducing aggressive driving, speeding, and school zone violations: Washington Regional Alcohol Program, Click it or Ticket, Smooth Operator, ASAP's Mothers Against Drunk Driving Campaign and Operation Extra Eyes. In the Click it or Ticket campaign Officer Metin Cay was recognized for his efforts and this is his fourth year winning this prestigious award. In May 2012, Corporal Alan Freed, Officer Rachel Henderson, Detective Sharee Janda and Officer Sameer Khan were honored with the MADD ASAP Awards for their efforts in the fight against drunk driving. In July 2012, Master Police Officer Rick Judd participated in Operations Extra Eyes second annual event which is a regional enforcement effort lead by the Town of Vienna Police to focus on aggressive and drunk driving.



Ofc. Chhetri

Weather Emergency



Cpl. Cuomo, Ofc. Cay and Fire Marshal Capt. Polera

This year was not without its challenges. On June 29, 2012, Storm "Derecho" hit the Northern Virginia area leaving millions of people without all phone service, power, and virtually paralyzing the Washington Metropolitan area. Yet the Police Department, along with many other City Departments answered the call of duty by directing traffic, checking on residences door to door and those homes destroyed by falling trees, checking on high rising creek beds abutting residents' homes and other emergency calls for service.

In October, the Metropolitan area was struck by another storm, "Sandy," which caused more power outages and put stress on the City's workforce to answer the call. Once again, the Police Department, along with other City Departments, worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

Towing Project

During the year 2012, Patrol Officers, Dispatchers, the Towing Advisory Board and Economic Development have taken a focused look at the towing practices, ordinances and policies of the City. With assistance and input from the community property managers of the major shopping centers the City ordinance was changed to regulate and better define the expectations of customers and tow companies. Signage regulations were set in place and additional evidence for each tow was submitted and accepted into the ordinance in an attempt to regulate tow companies and to ensure property managers would be accountable for each tow. Overall in 2012, 797 tows were tracked by Falls Church's Emergency Communication Center and more specifically Dispatcher Carly Lumsden and Corporal Alan Freed. Of the 797 tows, Corporal Freed conducted 7 investigations representing various citizens' complainants.

Also during the year, an audit was conducted by Corporal Freed of the tow companies that conduct private property impounds in the City. In all, 14 summons and 7 written warnings were issued to various companies for towing violations.

There is still a lot of work to be done in this venue and the Falls Church Police Department is committed to continuing to evolve with the community's needs and assist in resolving the pressures of limited and restricted parking.

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

ABC Initiative

Patrol Officers Jannie Clipp, Rachel Henderson, Alex Cruzvergara and Detective Sharee Janda have continued to shepard the community initiative that concentrates patrol efforts on alcohol related offenses throughout the City. This initiative was started in mid year 2010 and has continued through 2012. The ABC team scans problem areas, analyzing data, responding to issues and assessing the community's needs as it related to problems which arise from alcohol related incidents. In the year 2012, the officers made 186 arrests that were alcohol related.



Ofc. Janda, Ofc. Symoun, Ofc. Henderson and MPO Freed
Awardees at the MADD ASAP Awards Ceremony

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

In 2012, Sergeant Joseph Carter spearheaded the Rape Aggressive Defense (R.A.D.) program. This year marks the 11th annual set of classes (2 each year) hosted by the Falls Church City Police. The participation level of this class has been at full capacity each and every time it has been offered. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. The class had a compliment of Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including: the George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police Department and Prince William County Sherriff's Office.



The enthusiasm and camaraderie built from this class is contagious, but the value is in the reviews and testimonials from participants that speak of how the techniques and confidence learned in this class have actually saved their lives. A true testimony to the camaraderie of this class is the commitment and dedication of the community outreach volunteer Kathleen Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey has been partnered with the Falls Church Police Department for over 11 years and faithfully organizes, attends and video tapes every class. She brings a sense of purpose and immediate credibility to the officers and the mission of R.A.D. and her service to this community is invaluable.

Approximately 60 participants were certified in R.A.D. in 2012. Four officers, Sergeant Joe Carter, Detective Sharee Janda, Detective Sy Symoun, and Corporal Justin Cuomo are all certified R.A.D. instructors for the City of Falls Church.



Falls Church Special Weapons and Tactical (S.W.A.T.) Team

The Falls Church S.W.A.T. Team is a specialized unit of highly trained police officers deployed to handle violent and dangerous calls for service that exceed the expertise and/or tactical abilities and equipment of the first responders on patrol. The Team is grounded in basic common sense approaches that behold the preservation of life as their top priority in each and every training session and deployment mission. The S.W.A.T. Team members are comprised of officers from every shift/unit within the Department, providing an around the clock tactical capability 24 hours/7 days a week. The S.W.A.T. Team members are all actively involved in the National Capital Region's S.W.A.T. Association (NCRSA).

This Team provides the Police Department with a credible, effective and capable tactical response within the City's borders and assists mutual aid partners in the region. The Team trains monthly on situations ranging from barricaded gunmen, officer and citizen rescue, high risk entry, first aid skills, and response to numerous high-risk violence incidents. Every member attends an annual week long training event, where skills are honed and teamwork is developed in various disciplines. Each officer is also specially trained in a number of areas of expertise, ranging from precision marksman, less-than lethal force, breaching, command/control of volatile suspects and scenes, and a host of others disciplines.

In 2012, the Team applied for two grants through Firehouse Subs and Recon Robotics. The grants were awarded and the Team received equipment to include: (2) robots; a micro, tossable robot that can be thrown into a window and can be utilized to size up dangerous situations which in turn limits the potential dangers officers would potentially face. The second robot is a larger search and rescue robot, equipped with 2-way communication, infrared cameras, and the ability to negotiate stairways. This robot provides a greater span of intelligence and other options that optimize officer safety and identifies any potentially dangerous scene before entry by law enforcement.

Notable training in 2012 included:

March 2012 - Mechanical Breaching Instructor's Course hosted by Falls Church S.W.A.T.

March 2012 - Regional S.W.A.T. training with COG-wide counter terrorism exercise designed to test the Northern Virginia S.W.A.T. Teams'

May 2012 - Sniper Course in Loudoun County, hosted by Falls Church S.W.A.T.

Notable deployments throughout 2012 include:

April 2012 - Surveillance operation in support of the Criminal Investigations Division.

June 2012 - A barricade incident resulting in a 30-hours stand-off situation on Hillwood Avenue.

July 2012 - A reported burglary in progress of a local gun shop.

Services Division



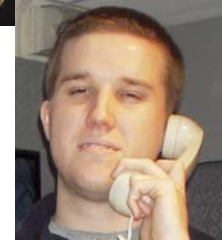
Criminal
Investigations
Unit



Community
Services Officer



School Resource
Officer



Emergency
Communications
Unit



Records Unit
Administrative
Assistant



Supervisor of ECU



Administrative
Sergeant



Criminal Investigations Unit

In calendar year 2012, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 227 cases, down from 305 in 2011. Part I offenses, which include serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft, were down, overall, by 2% compared to 2011. Fraud cases, overall, remained fairly constant, however, the number of reported Identity Theft cases more than doubled. The overall case closure rate for the unit was 81% for 2012, as compared to 80% in 2011. The City of Falls Church Police Department's case closure rate continues to be higher than the national and regional averages, which range from 68% to 74%.



Here are some highlights of just a few of the cases handled by the City of Falls Church Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in 2012:

- On January 19, 2012, a representative from the Human Resources department of the Easter Seals filed a report with the Police Department of employee embezzlement. Following a thorough investigation, it was discovered that the Director of the Child Development Center was creating false time sheets for a former employee. The Director would falsify the timesheets so that a paycheck would be mailed to the former employee. The former employee would then cash the check and split the money with the Director. Between 2007 and 2011, the pair had stolen over \$75,000 from Easter Seals. Both the Director of the Child Development Center and the former employee were charged with embezzlement.

Criminal Investigations Unit Highlights

- On July 14, 2012, at about 10:00 pm, an officer patrolling the area around the Eden Center heard gunshots. Within moments, responding officers located a male victim, deceased, with multiple gunshot wounds to the chest. Officers from adjoining jurisdictions assisted in establishing a perimeter in an attempt to contain the suspect. Very shortly thereafter, Falls Church Police Officers located a vehicle parked in the roadway portion of a parking area with a subject in the driver's seat that had an apparent gunshot wound to the head. The weapon located in the car was of the same caliber as the one used on the victim. While a definitive motive could not be established, it was concluded that after committing the homicide, the suspect committed suicide.
- On September 18, 2012, the Falls Church Police Department received a complaint from the Security Manager of Apple Federal Credit Union regarding a series of frauds perpetrated at the Falls Church Branch. The investigation revealed that after opening an account, the suspect made numerous fraudulent deposits at the ATM. He then made several withdrawals at ATMs throughout the area totaling several thousand dollars. The suspect was identified and arrested on October 5, 2012. He was charged with two felony counts of Larceny by False Pretense.



Detective Richardson

Community Services Officer



Crossing Guards

Another member of the Services Division is the Community Services Officer. The Community Services Officer is responsible for providing home and business security surveys, coordinates the School's Crossing Guards, provides educational programs for the City's elementary schools, as well as the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The Community Services Officer also reviews blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and makes recommendations based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The CSO also coordinates National and State Traffic Safety campaigns and assists in managing Traffic Safety Grant programs. Additionally, the CSO provides information for the Weekly Crime report and other press releases.

During 2012, the Community Services Officer:

- Conducted numerous Police Department tours to various groups and organizations.
- Coordinated a collection point for the National Drug Take Back Initiative which is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).
- Coordinated numerous traffic safety campaigns including Click It Or Ticket (May) and Checkpoint Strikeforce (Year round impaired driving enforcement).
- Continued the Bicycle & Pedestrian Awareness Week in conjunction with the department's Traffic Unit targeting enforcement in shared use traffic areas.
- Participated in the Arlington/Falls Church TRIAD which is an organization that builds partnerships between senior citizens and law enforcement to enhance safety and improve quality of life.



CSO Brooks

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer is the liaison between the Falls Church City Police Department and George Mason High School/Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO is responsible for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention on the campuses of George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO also provides student, staff and parent education on such topics as Drugs and Alcohol, Driver Safety, Internet Safety, Gangs, and Crime Prevention. The SRO and the School Division Safety and Security Supervisor work together fingerprinting, photographing and issuing employee badges to all Falls Church City Public School employees, as well as maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system.

Some of the other classes and activities organized and presented by our School Resource Officer during 2012 were:

Classes presented at the High School level:

- 8th Grade Physical Science - Velocity & Speed
- Forensic Chemistry - Effects of drugs and alcohol
- US Government - 4th & 5th Amendments
- Driver's Education (10th Grade)
- Internet Safety (8th Grade)
- Drugs & Alcohol (9th Grade)



Classes presented at the Middle School level:

- Risky Behavior/Gangs/Crime (7th Grade)
- Character Education

All grades, meet with each classroom once during the school year.

Animal Control División



The Animal Control Unit is responsible for the investigation of all complaints related to animals, both companion animals and wildlife. These complaints include, but are not limited to: animal bites, reports of cruelty to animals injured animals, animal noise complaints, quarantines and impounds, dog licensing and any other calls for service concerning animals. The Animal Control Officer is also a state certified Police Emergency Communications Technician and a trained Parking Enforcement Officer.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 160 calls related to companion animals and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and disposition of 46 domestic animals. There were 12 animals requiring quarantine; 10 as a result of bite incidents with residents, and 2 for possible exposure to rabies.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 97 wildlife complaints and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and/or disposition of 10 wild animals.

Some other notable statistics:

Calls for Service 244

Animal Cruelty Investigations 4

Animal Bite Complaints 12

Rabies Exposures 4



Records Unit



The Falls Church Police Department Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the organization. Even though we have a comprehensive computerized Records Management System, the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity handled by the department. They record and reroute every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrant. They scan impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report. They issue parking and drive through permits to our City residents. They create and distribute copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies.

Intersection Safety Program

During 2012, photo enforcement of red light violations continued at two intersections in the City. A total of 2,497 violation notices were issued at the intersection of E. Broad and Cherry Streets, and 3,931 were issued at the intersection of W. Broad Street and W. Annandale Road. This represents an overall reduction of more than 17% when compared to 2011 levels, an encouraging trend the we hope will continue. Current enforcement statistics are available on the City website, and are updated monthly.



Department Accreditation

During the month of July 2012, the Police Department successfully completed an on-site assessment for compliance with State accreditation standards. The Department was found to be operating in compliance with over 600 separate standards governing Administration, Operations, Personnel, and Training, and was awarded a reaccreditation certificate from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.



Training



Training is a critical function of the Services Division. It keeps the Department personnel current with changing trends and technology. Providing quality training to all personnel results in a more professional and capable work force. Additionally, two officers successfully completed Basic Academy Training, spanning 20 weeks (800 hours).

During 2012, Police Department personnel received over 4,242 hours of training. This training was in the form of Mandatory In-service Retraining, Firearms training, Legal updates, First Aid, CPR, and Roll call training that covers a vast array of topics and subject areas.



Emergency Communications



The function of the Police Emergency Communications unit is to serve as the "Lifeline" between the citizens and the Police Department. Oftentimes, the Emergency Communications unit member is the first contact that citizens will have with the City Government.

It is the main control center for the ongoing operations of the Department. The Emergency Communications unit provides the patrol units with access to local, state and federal criminal justice information systems.

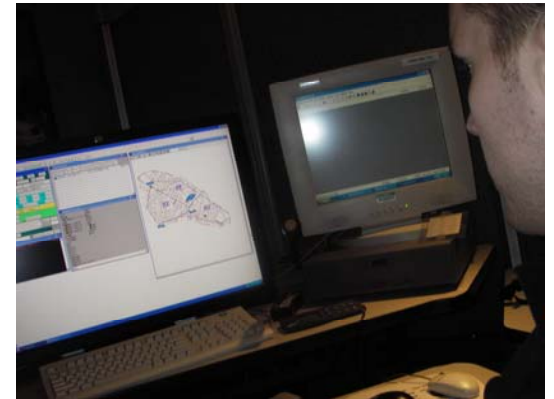


The primary function is to provide the uniformed patrol units with accurate information in order to respond to the needs of the citizens in a safe and in an expeditious manner. The Police Emergency Communications unit is also responsible for the entry of the Department's wanted and stolen entries into the Virginia Criminal Information Network State and National Crime Information Central databases. The accuracy with which these entries are made assists in determining how quickly wanted persons are apprehended and stolen items are recovered.



Emergency Communications

Not only does The Police Emergency Communications Unit handle calls for the Police Department, but it's members are also responsible for monitoring and keeping track of The Falls Church Sheriff's Department Deputies and obtaining information from various databases for them.



Other responsibilities include but are not limited to monitoring various cameras and alarms around City Hall and other City properties such as the schools.



The Police Emergency Communications Unit is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It serves as the City Hall's gatekeeper during non-business hours.



In 2012, the Police Emergency Communications Unit processed 24,161 calls for service (This does not include the thousands of informational calls that required no police action.).

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Office of Emergency Management is a combined Division of the Police Department. This Division is comprised of one (1) Captain that reports directly to the Chief of Police. In addition to those primary duties, the City Fire Marshal is a law enforcement position and serves as part of the Command Staff within the Police Department. As such the position supports any and all emergency events that occur within the City.

In the last two years, the City's response and focus on Emergency Management has been ongoing and engaged with an Earthquake, Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, The Derecho, and Super Storm Sandy. In addition, the impacts of other events including the Hillwood Avenue incident and the reaction of the tragedy in New Town, Connecticut has placed a focus on pre-planning and response within all segments of the community. As a result many of the day to day functions described under the Office of the Fire Marshal are temporarily suspended or altered in order to meet the demands of the moment.



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Fire Marshal

The mission of the Fire Marshal is life safety and property preservation through the enforcement of the City of Falls Church Fire Prevention Code and the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The City Fire Marshal is designated as the Fire Official for the City.



Fire Inspection Program

The Fire Marshal inspects and issues permits required by the Fire Code based upon occupancy type and hazardous operations. These occupancies include restaurants, places of assembly, child care facilities including home daycare, buildings with fire protection systems, pools, tents, automotive repair facilities, warehouses, industrial facilities, and any locations in the city using hazardous materials and operations, including fuel dispensing facilities. In addition, all City facilities are inspected by the Fire Marshal including Falls Church City Public Schools. These inspections are required on an annual basis by the Commonwealth of Virginia and NFPA.

The Fire Marshal reviews all documentation by third party qualified contractors selected by the building owner to verify the maintenance, testing and performance of fire protection systems. Inspections are also conducted on commercial properties on the basis of complaint. The administration of this program includes the financial accounting, billing and collecting of revenues associated with the Fire Inspection Program.

| | INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED | PERMITS ISSUED | VIOLATIONS CORRECTED | REVENUE | REVENUE CHANGE |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| CY 2012 Falls Church FM | 200 | 143 | 826 | \$36,383 | 63% ↑ |
| CY 2011 Falls Church FM | 177 | 120 | 368 | \$22,255 | 69% ↑ |
| CY 2007-2010 Arlington | 69 - 96 | ? | ? | \$6K - 13K | varied |
| Note: Revenues are not capture for City facilities or Falls Church City Public Schools | | | | | |

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Since the inception of the Fire Inspection Program in 2011, it is estimated that approximately 80 percent of the City's inspectable properties have been entered into the program. Subject to available staff time, additional growth is expected in the next calendar year.

Fire Investigations

The Fire Marshal is responsible for origin and cause investigations involving fire and explosions as well as environmental crimes. There were several fires reported in 2012, all determined to be accidental. Significant fires involved a restaurant at the Eden Center and a high-rise apartment unit. Losses were minimal in these fires due to working sprinkler suppression systems. Total fire loss for the City for CY2012 is estimated under \$500,000.

Plans Review, Inter-departmental and Inter-jurisdictional Assistance

The Fire Marshal assists other city departments including Development Services and Public Works in the review of plans for all new and/or existing structures in the City. Reviews also include assisting Recreation and Parks in the preparation for Special Events. The Fire Marshal serves on the City Health and Safety Inspection Taskforce. Additional committees include the Northern Virginia Joint Committee on Fire and Arson Investigation and the Council of Governments - Fire Prevention Group.

Accomplishments:

- Continues to meet or exceeds all state regulatory requirements for the Office of the Fire Marshal, including advance certifications in fire origin and cause.
- Prepared and completed adoption of the Fire Prevention Code update.
- Developed and designed the Fire Marshal website to provide owner/contractor requirements and safety information to the community.
- Developed the use of an electronic tablet with forms and technology integrated into the Fire Inspection Program.
- Recognized as an inspection partner in obtaining the Virginia Municipal League award to the City of Falls Church Inspection Taskforce.
- Assisted in preparation of the City Code on Home Day Care procedures.
- Maintains a strong working partnership with the Building Official and Zoning Administrator to formulate team inspections for identified unsafe structures.
- Maintains a strong partnership with the City's Planning Office to perform plans review for construction projects to identify design deficiencies that could impede the effectiveness of emergency operations.
- Maintains Fire Investigation and Emergency Management Response vehicle, this also serves as a Police Command function.
- Provide specialty training to both Falls Church City Public Schools and the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department.

Specific Upcoming Objectives:

- Continue to obtain completion of 100% of all inspectable commercial structures in the City per the requirements of the Statewide Fire Prevention Code on an annual basis. In order to achieve this measure a request has been made for a temporary part-time Fire Marshal.
- Improve the integration of technology into the Inspection Program.



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Emergency Management

Emergency Management provides the leadership, coordination and operational planning that enables the City's response to, and recovery from, the impact of natural and man-made hazards. OEM's responsibilities are local and regional in nature, and are components of the Department of Homeland Security. OEM ensures the City meets and maintains the goals of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This is accomplished by promoting emergency planning, public education and emergency training and exercises throughout the City. Emergency Management is divided into four phases Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. The City Manager serves as the Director of Emergency Management, while the City Fire Marshal Serves as the Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Programs administered by OEM include the management of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), review and updates of the following: Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), Regional Hazardous Mitigation Plan, NIMSCAST Compliance Reporting and the Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report. Additional management of communication programs under OEM includes WebEOC, Alert Falls Church, Satellite Phones, Video Tele-Conferencing (VTC) and the administration of the Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards.

Collateral duties for the Coordinator of Emergency Management include attending meetings with the Northern Virginia Regional Emergency Managers. OEM also serves as a point of contact for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and the Council of Governments Emergency Managers sub-committee.

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Accomplishments:

- Revise the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) to meet compliance with Federal and State requirements.
 - Coordinate and updated the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan as part of a regional effort to include 20 jurisdictions.
 - Coordinate and assign Departments with a lead role in developing plans for the Emergency Support Function (ESF) they are assigned.
 - Coordinated NIMS training city-wide to meet Federal and State compliance.
 - Completed NIMSCAST reporting indicating response capabilities as required.
 - Completed Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR) report to the Commonwealth of Virginia, as required.
 - Update, refurbished and tested the capabilities of city Satellite Phones.
- Actively participated in the Virginia Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC) for the Presidential Inauguration.
- Participated in Virginia Statewide Tornado and Earthquake Drills.
 - Issued Government Emergency Telecommunications Service (GETS) cards to City Leadership.
 - Facilitated Hot-Wash and After-Action sessions with departments that responded during the Derecho storm to determine mitigation and corrected recommendations to the City Manager.
 - Coordinated with Finance the submission of two Federal Reimbursements for the Derecho and Super Storm Sandy accounting for as much as \$400,000.
 - Coordinated the delivery of Run-Hide-Fight "Active Shooter" training for all of City staff.
- Assist the Chief of Police when requested for Emergency Management guidance.

Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Priorities FY2014

- Coordinate and update the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
- Establish a Citywide "Emergency Operations Planning Team." All Departments having an Emergency Support Function (ESF) will provide at least one representative to this team. This team will focus on Emergency Planning and be responsible to assist their Department Head in the development of those Emergency Plans required by the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP).
- Review status updates for Emergency Support Functions (ESF's) to ensure lead Departments are performing the required actions under the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and report status to the City Manager.
- Plan and develop an expanded Emergency Management website to include an enhanced section on *Community Resilience Training*. This will include the participation of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department and will serve as the replacement to the previous CERT Program. Launch of this program is expected in 2013-2014.
- Expand and deliver an awareness campaign for Run-Hide-Fight "Active Shooter" situations at targeted locations including schools.
- Coordinate with the Chief of Police a table-top drill, followed by a functional exercise. The effectiveness of how each department and agency responds must be tested to determine areas of need for an actual event.

Volunteer Fire Department

The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD). During the calendar year 2012, the volunteers participated in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. The FCVFD is involved in training and other activities that its members have completed in order to continue to provide a high level of professional emergency response and public education services.



A significant majority of the funding for the Volunteer Fire Department under the City of Falls Church budget is used for the provision and maintenance of firefighting equipment and facilities, specifically:

- Apparatus Maintenance
- Building Maintenance
- Vehicle Equipment
- Building Utilities
- Vehicle Fuels
- Telecommunications

The equipment and facilities are utilized by all fire department personnel including both Falls Church volunteers and Arlington County career firefighters.

Public Safety Awards

On October 17, 2012, the Falls Church Police Department celebrated its Inaugural Public Safety Awards which was conceived by Colonel Harry W. Reitze. The purpose of the awards celebration was to acknowledge the many individuals, teams and departments throughout the City that serve the residents with exemplary service through their mission of public safety service. Most of the awards granted were for actions taken or projects completed in the past year 2012; but there was a historical case recognized in this year's ceremony in the area of Superior Decoration.

The awards are broken into 4 categories: Superior Decoration, The Chief's Award, Meritorious Public Safety Award, and Civilian Public Safety Award.

A Superior Decoration, the Medal of Valor Award was presented to Corporal Alan Freed for an incident on January 21, 1999, where he was confronted by a suspicious suspect spray painting a vehicle behind the West end Shopping Center. The subject suddenly pulled a weapon and started firing at MPO Freed and his recruit officer; a total of 17 rounds were exchanged. The subject was shot and killed by MPO Freed in the brief gun battle.

A Superior Decoration, the Gold Star Award was presented to individual officers on Day work's A-Squad for their actions taken on June 25, 2012, during a dangerous barricade situation on Hillwood Avenue. These officers performed as a team to heroically evacuate a 95 year old frail gentleman from a very volatile and potentially deadly situation. The officers receiving the Gold Star included: Fire Marshal Captain Tom Polera, Sergeant Chuck Carr, Officer Matt Cay, Corporal Justin Cuomo, Master Police Officer Markus Bristol, and Officer Joe Karlinsey.

Also, recognized for the Hillwood Avenue incident was a host of other City Departments that were instrumental in the safe outcome. The Departments included: Falls Church Sheriff's Office, The Office of Communications and the Department of Public Works.

The Chief of Police Award was presented to Sergeant Detective Ed Lancaster for his dedicated and honorable service throughout his tenure. Chief Reitze highlighted the number of Criminal Investigation cases that have been successfully resolved and adjudicated by Sergeant Detective Lancaster as well as his unwavering commitment to his fellow employees and citizens of the City.

The Chief of Police Award was presented to Sergeant Pilar Uelmen for her commitment and dedication to the Accreditation Program. Her hard work over the last four years resulted in a near perfect assessment by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.

Public Safety Awards

The Meritorious Public Safety Award was presented to the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Team for their commitment to prevent sexual assault against women. The officers receiving the Award included: Sergeant Joe Carter, Corporal Justin Cuomo, Detectives Sharee Janda and Sy Symoun.

The Meritorious Public Safety Award was presented to Detective Sonya Richardson for her dedication, determination, and compassion in a very high profile case in which she used "Trace DNA" technology to gain a conviction.

The Operations Division Commander Award was presented to Sergeant Dan Zakula for his overall service to the Department and his unending commitment to assisting others in his day to day operations.

The Service Division Commander Award was presented to Master Police Officer Jennifer Elliott for her tireless efforts in completing numerous technological solutions and investigations in the City that seem to get more complicated and diverse with each passing year.

The Civilian Public Safety Award was presented to Mr. Michael and Ms. Jennifer Short who offered their home as space and shelter for officers negotiating with a suicidal subject in crisis on the Hillwood Avenue barricade situation. The incident spanned over a 3 days period where they allowed the police unfettered access to their home.

Photo Gallery

2012 Awards Ceremony



Det. Richardson receiving her award.



RAD Instructors receiving an award.



Sgt. Uelmen receiving her award.



Sgt. Zakula receiving his award.

Photo Gallery

2012 Awards Ceremony



Platoon A receiving their award.



Falls Church Sheriff's Office receiving their award.



Cpl. Freed receiving his award.



Command Staff

